Amendments to the Claims:

Please cancel Claims 2-4, 6-11 and 14 without prejudice. Please add new Claims 15-17.

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An image processing device comprising:

calculating means for calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of an image from a histogram of the image;

~~detecting means for detecting whether a specific object is included in an input image;~~

setting means for setting a target highlight point and a target shadow point ~~correction parameter~~ based on photographic information of the image~~the detection result~~; and

first generating means for generating a gradation correction based on the highlight point, the shadow point, the target highlight point and the target shadow point;

detecting means for detecting a face region in the image;

second generating means for generating an exposure correction based on a histogram of the face region; and

correcting means for correcting the ~~input~~ image based on the gradation correction and the exposure ~~by using the set~~ correction ~~parameter~~.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising ~~the steps of~~:

calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of an image from a histogram of the image;

~~creating a histogram of an input image;~~

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~~generating~~setting a ~~first~~ gradation correction based on the highlight point and the shadow point ~~correcting condition in accordance with the histogram~~;

detecting a face region in the image;

calculating a representative luminance of the detected face region;

~~correcting the input image by using the gradation correcting condition;~~

~~extracting a specific object region from the corrected input image;~~

~~creating a histogram of the specific object region that has been extracted;~~

setting a target luminance based on the representative luminance~~a second gradation correcting condition in accordance with the histogram of the specific object region that has been created~~; and

generating an exposure correction based on the representative luminance and the target luminance; and

correcting the image based on the gradation correction and the exposure correction~~in the specific object region by using the set second gradation correcting condition~~.

6-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) An image processing method comprising:

calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of an image from a histogram of the image;

~~detecting step for detecting whether a specific object is included in an input image;~~

~~setting step for~~ setting a target highlight point and a target shadow point ~~correction parameter~~ based on photographic information of the image~~the detection result~~; and

generating a gradation correction based on the highlight point, the shadow point, the target highlight point and the target shadow point;

detecting a face region in the image;

generating an exposure correction based on a histogram of the face region; and

~~correcting step for~~ correcting the ~~input~~ image based on the gradation correction and the exposure correction ~~by using the set correction parameter~~.

13. (Currently Amended) An image processing ~~system~~ device comprising:

first calculating means for calculating a highlight point and a shadow point of an image from a histogram of the image;

~~means for generating a histogram of an input image;~~

first generating means for generating ~~setting~~ a ~~first~~ gradation correction ~~correcting condition~~ based on the highlight point and the shadow point~~histogram~~;

detecting means for detecting a face region in the image;

second calculating means for calculating a representative luminance of the detected face region;

~~means for correcting the input image by using the gradation correcting condition;~~

~~means for extracting a specific object region from the corrected input image;~~

~~means for creating a histogram of the specific object region that has been extracted;~~

setting means for setting a target luminance based on the representative luminance~~second gradation correcting condition in accordance with the histogram of the specific object region~~; and

second generating means for generating an exposure correction based on the representative luminance and the target luminance; and

correcting means for correcting the image based on the gradation correction and the exposure correction~~in the specific object region by using the set second gradation correcting condition~~.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (New) The image processing device according to claim 1, wherein the photographic information includes a usage or non-usage of a flash and a range of an in-focus position.

16. (New) The image processing device according to claim 1, further comprising rotating means for rotating the image in accordance with a posture in the photographic information.

17. (New) The image processing method according to claim 1, wherein the second generating means calculates a γ value based on the representative luminance and the target luminance.